Early Music Series

General Editor: Howard Mayer Brown

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Two Chansons for Flutes

Edited by
Bernard Thomas

pub. Pierre Attaingnant
(1533)

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EDITORIAL NOTE

Pierre Attaingnant's *Vingt et sept chansons musicales*, from which these two chansons are taken, is one of two collections of chansons that the Parisian publisher issued in 1533 in which most of the pieces are marked off as being suitable for transverse flutes (by the letter *a*), recorders (*b*), or both (*ab*): for the two pieces in this supplement flutes only are specified. For a discussion of the possible significance of these indications, and of some of the problems involved, see my article on the Renaissance flute in *Early Music*, Vol. 3 No. 1. As this article tries to show, there is conflicting evidence on the pitch and sizes of flutes used during the Renaissance, but at the moment it looks as if the most likely combination that Attaingnant might have had in mind is that of alto in g', two tenors in c', and bass in f. Performers on reproduction tenor and bass flutes in d' and g will find it necessary to transpose *Si bon amour* up a tone; *Parle qui veult*, on the other hand, will work either at pitch on alto in a', tenors in d', bass in g, or down a tone (as suggested by Praetorius) on the g'-c'-f combination mentioned above. These chansons are of course quite suitable for stringed instruments such as viols (TrTTB). The first piece, in spite of Attaingnant's indication for flutes only, will work perfectly well on recorders (ATTB).

In this edition the note values have been halved, and editorial accidentals are printed small; in *Si bon amour*, bar 16, the first note of the Contratenor is c' in the original.

I am grateful to Alan Robson of Merton College, Oxford, for translating and editing the texts of these two chansons.

Bernard Thomas, 1974

Translations

1) If true love deserves reward,
And if pity has not lost its sway,
I shall receive mercy, for my only hope
Is to serve her dutifully.

2) Speak who will, I'll be thine (such is my state)
As long as I have breath within me:
And one may think to rob me of thy favour
Who never had it, or will lose if he has it,
For since his tongue strayed so far,
It is hard for him to be steadfast in love.

1. SI BON AMOUR

JACOTIN

RANGES:

SUPERIUS

Si bon a - mour me - ri - te re - com - - - - - pen -

CONTRATENOR

Si bon a - mour_____ me - ri - te_____ re - com -

TENOR

Si bon a - mour me - ri - te re - - - - com - - -

BASSUS

Si bon a - mour me - ri - te re - com - - - - - pen -

4

- - - - - - - - se, Et si pi - tié n'a per - du son pou - -

- pen - se, Et si pi - tié n'a per - du son pou - - - - -

- - - pen - se, Et si pi - tié n'a per - du son_____

- - - - se, Et si pi - tié n'a per - du son pou - voir

8

- voir,_____ J'au - - ray

- - - - - - - - - voir,_____ J'au - ray mer - cy, j'au - ray mer -

_____ pou - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - voir, J'au -

J'au - - - - - - ray_____ mer - cy, j'au - ray

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mer - cy, car ma seu - le fi - an - - - - - -

- cy, mer - cy, car ma seu - le fi - an - - - - - -

- ray mer - - - - cy, car ma seu - le fi - an - - - - - -

mer - cy, car ma seu - le fi - an - - - ce

16

- ce Est la ser - vir en fai - sant mon deb -

- ce Est la ser - vir en fai - sant mon

- ce Est la ser - vir en fai - sant mon

Est la ser - - - vir en fai - sant mon deb -

19

1 2

- - - - - - - - - voir. en - - - - voir.

__ deb - - - - - voir. en fai - sant - - - - voir.

__ deb - - - - - - - voir. en - - - - voir.

- - - - - - - - - voir. en - - - - voir.

2. PARLE QUI VEULT

CLAUDIN [DE SERMISY]

RANGES:

SUPERIUS

Par - le ___ qui veult, tien se - ray (j'en ___ suys

CONTRATENOR

Par - le qui veult, tien se - ray___ (j'en suys la, j'en suys la) ___

TENOR

Par - le qui veult, tien se - ray (j'en suys ___

BASSUS

Par - le qui veult, tien se - ray (j'en suys la, j'en suys

5

la) Tant que l'es - prit de - dans mon cueur se tien - - - -

___ Tant que l'es - prit de - dans mon cueur se tien - - - -

la) Tant que l'es - prit ___ de - dans mon cueur se

la) Tant que l'es - - - - - - - - prit de - dans mon

9

- - - - - - - ne: Et tel me cui - de os - ter la gra - ce tien - - - - -

- - - - - - - ne: Et tel me cui - de os - ter la gra - ce tien - -

tien - - - - - ne: Et tel me cui - de os - ter___ la gra - ce tien - - - - -

cueur se tien - ne: Et tel me cui - de os - ter la gra - ce tien - -

14

- ne, Qui ne l'eut onc, ou la per - dra si l'a, Car puys

- ne, Qui ne l'eut onc, ou la per - dra si l'a, Car puys que

- ne, Qui ne l'eut onc, ou la per - dra si l'a, Car

- ne, Qui ne l'eut onc, ou la per - dra si l'a, Car

19

que tant sa lan - gue vac - - - cil - la, Dif - fi - cile est

tant sa lan - - gue vac - - - - cil - la, Dif - fi - cile est qu'en

puys que tant sa lan - gue vac - - cil - la, Dif - fi - cile est

puys que tant sa lan - gue vac - - - cil - la, Dif - fi - cile

24

1 2

qu'en a - mour se main - tien - - - - - ne. Car puys - ne.

a - mour se main - tien - - - - - ne. Car puys que - ne.

qu'en a - mour se main - tien - - - ne. Car - ne.

est qu'en a - mour se main - tien - ne. Car - ne.

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